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Outcome of the International Expert Meeting on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to transmit to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development the outcome of the International Expert Meeting on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (see annex).

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Annex

International Expert Meeting on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production[1]

Marrakesh, Morocco, 16-19 June 2003

I. Introduction

1. The International Expert Meeting on a 10-Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production was held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003.[2] The meeting was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Financial support for the meeting, particularly for the participation of experts from developing countries, was provided by the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden.

2. Some 115 experts on sustainable consumption and production from government agencies, international organizations, consumer organizations, business and industry from 59 countries and 9 international organizations participated in the meeting.

3. The meeting was organized in response to the call in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for actions at all levels to:

> "Encourage and promote the development of a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production to promote social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems by addressing and, where appropriate, delinking economic growth and environmental degradation through improving efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes and reducing resource degradation, pollution and waste. All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries, through mobilization, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity-building for developing countries."[3]

4. The co-chairs of the meeting were Mr. M'hamed Elmurabit, Secretary of State for the Environment of Morocco, and Ambassador Viveka Bohn of Sweden. Ms. Pernille Sorensen, of the Ministry of Environment of Denmark, served as rapporteur for the meeting. For the closing session, Mr. Mohammed Arrouchi, of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations, served as co-chair on behalf of Mr. Elmurabit.

5. Detailed discussions of sustainable consumption and production were held in four parallel working groups:

(a) Human settlements and sustainable consumption and production, co-chaired by Mr. Alf Wills, Department of Environment, South Africa, and Mr. Bernard Mazijn, Directorate-General of the Environment, Belgium;

(b) General policy instruments and analytical tools, co-chaired by Mr. James Riordan, Environment Canada, and Mr. Ariel Carbajal, Secretariat of Sustainable Development, Argentina;

(c) Promoting sustainable consumption patterns, co-chaired by Mr. Susanto Sutoyo, Department of Foreign Affairs, Indonesia, and Ms. Aira Kalela, Ministry of Environment, Finland;

(d) Tools for changing production patterns, co-chaired by Ms. Cornelia Quennet-Thielen, Ministry for the Environment, Germany, and Mr. Young-Woo Park, Korea National Cleaner Production Center, Republic of Korea.

II. Conclusions

6. **The Marrakesh process on sustainable consumption and production, in which a number of priorities were identified, is a basic step towards the development of a 10-year framework of programmes, which needs to be further encouraged and promoted in order to ensure effective support to national and regional initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production for the promotion of social and economic development.**

7. **In this respect, participants at the meeting, while recognizing the effectiveness of devising a set of actions to be further pursued and reinforced at all levels, identified a number of challenges to their implementation that remain to be solved with respect to the four themes identified for discussion.**

8. **The Marrakesh process emphasized the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in formulating policies for promoting sustainable consumption and production. It further underlined the importance of ensuring the integration of sustainable consumption and production in national sustainable development strategies and, where applicable, in poverty reduction strategies.**

9. **The Marrakesh process indicated that establishing a clear definition of sustainable consumption and production is a key element in the process. After detailed debates on the breadth and scope of the subject over a significant period of time (10 years), it has been decided that it is necessary to move ahead from the more generic to the specific and to focus on implementation.**

10. **Participants at the meeting also emphasized the need to obtain political commitment for the issue of sustainable consumption and production at the highest level in Governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society. Raising awareness on the benefits of sustainable consumption and production and mainstreaming of sustainable consumption and production at all levels was considered essential.**

11. **The Marrakesh process recognized that it is important for Governments to specify their priorities in the area of sustainable consumption and production in order to ensure effective and well-targeted international cooperation.**

12. **In furthering progress in promoting sustainable consumption and production, institutional and social capacity-building was seen as a major challenge. The need for the development and diffusion of sustainable**

technologies as well as financial means for implementing policies and programmes for sustainable consumption and production was also recognized.

13. Dissemination of information was considered important in promoting sustainable consumption and production and the need for effective use of practical tools, including awareness-raising, education, training, media and advertising, was highlighted.

14. It was agreed that the active involvement of all stakeholders in relevant forums at all levels is essential and should be promoted. Partnerships involving Governments, international organizations and civil society were considered a successful instrument to promote sustainable consumption and production.

Future work

15. The co-chairs of the International Expert Meeting welcomed the findings of the working groups on future work. The four groups identified a number of useful and concrete proposals, which should be considered at the national, regional and international levels. The development of the 10-year framework is a continuous process towards the achievement of sustainable consumption and production patterns, which should be further elaborated through enhanced international cooperation.

16. The co-chairs recognized that this was the first meeting in a long-term process to provide input to the intergovernmental decision-making process as well as the importance of increased intergovernmental and institutional communication and cooperation on sustainable consumption and production. They also recognized the importance of strengthened inter-agency cooperation, coordination and follow-up in support of national, subregional and regional activities.

17. This process should take into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development as well as public participation. Equity and access should also be taken into consideration, especially in relation to developing countries. In the case of developing countries, further work needs to be done, especially with regard to the means of implementation, including capacity-building, training and technology transfer, with national as well as international support, to promote investment in sustainable production by industries in developing countries.

18. The ongoing Marrakesh process should consist of:

(a) Targeted responses by international organizations corresponding to governmental priorities in the area of sustainable consumption and production. On this basis the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP are asked to expand the "Survey of International Activities on Consumption and Production Patterns" compiled by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with regard to the identified priorities for the Marrakesh process to both more comprehensive and make it available to all countries;

(b) Establishment of mechanisms that encourage and support information and experience-sharing, network-building and dissemination of best practices. Such mechanisms could be interactive web sites or expert

meetings on specific issues under the sustainable consumption and production umbrella;

(c) Involvement of all stakeholders and the establishment of concrete partnerships. Business and business associations were called on to implement sustainable production and consumption, including through business-to-business partnerships at all levels, and to promote a sustainable business culture;

(d) An invitation to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in collaboration with UNEP and other relevant organizations and relevant financial institutions, to prepare, based on the work of and, in particular, on the priorities identified at, this meeting, a report on the actions needed at the international level to support national action in the waste, transportation, construction and water and sanitation sectors, indicating the agencies, organizations, institutions and bodies that should be involved in each action;

(e) Strengthening of regional processes in all regions, which would also contribute to the international process. At the international level, the Marrakesh process should include a broad-based expert meeting for the 10-year framework of programmes in two years' time, supported by international organizations and donor contributions. The ongoing Marrakesh process on sustainable consumption and production should be supported by informal task forces or round tables on sustainable consumption and production, with the participation of experts from developing and developed countries, to promote progress on the 10-year framework and the implementation of chapter 3 in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(f) Subsequent international expert meetings to address a wide range of sustainable consumption and production issues, also taking into account the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(g) Dissemination of the present report to other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and businesses. Governments are invited to take into account the outcome of this meeting in preparation for meetings of the governing bodies of all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes.

19. The International Expert Meeting welcomed the intention of the Government of Morocco to submit this summary by the co-chairs of the meeting for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session, in April 2004.

20. The co-chairs, the co-chairs of the working groups and the participants thanked the Government of Morocco for its generosity and hospitality in hosting the meeting and initiating the Marrakesh process on sustainable consumption and production. They also expressed their appreciation to the countries that provided financial support for the meeting, in particular the support for the participation of experts from developing countries.

Notes

[1] The conclusions of the meeting are taken from the summary by the co-chairs of the meeting. The full report of the meeting is available at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sdissues/consumption/marrakech.htm.

[2] Hereinafter referred to as the Marrakesh process.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II. A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 15.